

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /152 W

----- 050466

R 230800Z FEB 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 794

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USINT PEKING

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 101

BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, XF

SUBJECT: IRAQ'S POSITION ON ME SETTLEMENT

1. DESPITE RECENT VISIT OF PFLP LEADER GEORGE HABBASH, DURING WHICH HE HAD EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH BAATH LEADERSHIP, IRAQI ACTIONS AND CONCENTRATION ON NEW INVESTMENT PLANS SEEM TO REFLECT LACK OF INTEREST IN DISRUPTING ME SETTLEMENT PROCESS. FACT THAT GOI DID NOT RAISE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE DURING FRENCH FORMIN JOBERT'S VISIT (BAGHDAD 89) IS INDICATIVE. NEVERTHELESS, GOI PUBLIC POSITION REMAINS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO "CAPITULATIONIST" SETTLEMENT AND SECRETARY'S
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TRIP ATTACKED AS NEW ARAB SURRENDER TO "AMERICAN/ZIONIST"

TRICKERY".

2. THERE IS AMONG FRIENDLY ARAB DIPLOMATS CONCERN ABOUT ROLE OF STATES LIKE IRAQ IN LONG RUN. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR NAGGAR IS CONVINCED THAT SETTLEMENT EFFORT CANNOT SURVIVE ANY LOSS IN MOMENTUM BETWEEN DISENGAGEMENT AND RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH EGYPTIANS ARE FULLY BEHIND SADAT'S PEACE EFFORTS HE BELIEVES THERE IS GREAT APPREHENSION THAT ARABS ARE AGAIN BEING DUPED. IF ANY SUBSTANCE GIVEN TO THESE FEARS IRAQ AND OTHERS WILL IMMEDIATELY EXPLOIT IT. NAGGAR IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT CHINA. HE BELIEVES THAT AMONG OUTSIDE POWERS CHINESE HAVE GREATEST INTEREST IN OBSTRUCTING SETTLEMENT IN ORDER TO PREVENT POSITION OF USSR IN AREA FROM BEING STABILIZED. HE WAS, HOWEVER, UNABLE TO GIVE ANY EXAMPLES OF CHINESE ACTIONS TO THIS END.

3. MOST OMINOUS NOTE OF ALL IS SURPRISINGLY SOUNDED BY LEBANESE AMBASSADOR CHAMMAS, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM TWO WEEKS IN BEIRUT. HE IS FIRST ARAB DIPLOMAT I HAVE HEARD TAKING LINE THAT ISRAEL WILL BE FORTUNATE AND SHOULD BE WELL SATISFIED TO OBTAIN SETTLEMENT BASED ON 1967 BORDERS GIVEN REVERSAL THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE IN POWER BALANCE WITH ARABS. THIS THEME IS NOT YET BEING VOICED HERE, BUT GIVEN IRAQI STATE OF EUPHORIA OVER MASSIVE NEW OIL REVENUES AND FLOOD OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES PAYING COURT TO BAATH REGIME, IT COULD SOON BECOME IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN IRAQI PROPAGANDA.

4. COMMENT: WHILE USG HAS LITTLE HOPE OF INFLUENCING GOI THINKING ON ME SETTLEMENT, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT GOI WISHES TO GET ACROSS POSITIVE IMAGE TO U.S. PUBLIC AND ESTABLISH DIALOGUE. MOST SIGNIFICANT INDICATIONS WERE BAKR'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON, GOI RECEPTION OF SENATOR ABOUREZK, AND SPECIAL TREATMENT RECEIVED BY COLUMNIST ROWLAND EVANS AND MORE RECENTLY CORRESPONDENT OF CHICAGO TRIBUNE. THIS MODEST BEGINNING COULD BE PURSUED BY VISITS OF PROMINENT AMERICAN JOURNALISTS, INTELLECTUALS

OR OTHERS WHO ARE KNOWN FOR FAVOR-
ABLE POSITION TOWARD ARABS OR NEUTRAL POSITION. IRAQI BEHAVIOR IS TOO UNPREDICTABLE FOR DEPARTMENT TO PROMOTE SUCH VISITS TO
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IRAQ ALONE, BUT IF SUCH AMERICANS ARE VISITING ME AND ARE DARING ENOUGH TO BREAK NEW GROUND, I BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE THEM TO COME TO BAGHDAD. IRAQIS WILL, I THINK, RESPOND TO SUCH INDIVIDUALS AND IT COULD NURTURE INCIPIENT U.S.-IRAQI DIALOGUE. LOWRIE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, PEACE PLANS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: rowelle0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BAGHDA00101
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740213/aaaaamla.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: rowelle0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <30-Sep-2002 by rowelle0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRAQ'S POSITION ON ME SETTLEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, IZ, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005